

HEALTH
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R E P O R T

On the Health and Sanitary Condition of the

WARMINSTER and WESTBURY

RURAL DISTRICT

for the year

1 9 4 7.

Presented to the

Warminster & Westbury Rural District Council

by

D. F. MORGAN,

Medical Officer of Health of
the Warminster & Westbury
Rural Sanitary Authority.

Craven House,
Warminster, Wilts.
August 1948.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Warminster & Westbury Rural
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on
the health & sanitary conditions of the District for 1947.

Mr. C.S.Piper, Assistant Surveyor & District
Sanitary Inspector, left the District on 31/12/46: Mr.
A.A.Kemmish was appointed to the vacancy on 17th. March &
commenced his duties in May.

There were changes in the clerical staff at
Craven House.

Plans to utilise existing accomodation at Craven
House were considered during 1947, though the actual
offices in use at the end of the year were unchanged from
when the Rating, Surveyor's & Public Health Departments
moved in on 27th. September, 1946.

1947 marked the opening of some of the new Council
houses, two of the sites being completed. Temporary accomm-
odation at Camps was dealt with. The resignation of the
Housing Inspector and the appointment of a Council House
Manager are referred to in Section 8.

Progress was made with the Regional Water Sewerage
Schemes.

Two cases of Infantile Paralysis occurred: special
measures were taken to limit spread of this disease.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

D.F.MORGAN

Medical Officer of Health.

WARMINSTER & WESTBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1947

1. STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - D.E.Morgan, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector = W.F.C.Merrett, M.R.S.I.
M.S.I.A., A.M.I.D.E.

Assistant Surveyor & District Sanitary Inspector -
A.A.Kennish, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

2. STATISTICS (Figures for 1946 in brackets)

Area & District:	87,096 acres	(87,096)
Resident population:	12,090	(11,910)
No. of Inhabited Houses:	3,831	(3,762)
(including hatted Camps)		
Rateable Value at 31/3/47	£53,173	(£54,823)
Product of 1d. Rate:	£251	(£235)
(31/3/47)		

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The area is Agricultural and contains 457 Milk Producing Premises. There are also Agricultural Machine Works, Milk Depot, Leather Tannery, Umbrella Factory, brickworks, malting & grist mills & various W.D. properties.

Outworkers are chiefly employed in Glove making.

4. VITAL STATISTICS

(a) <u>Live Births</u>	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	117	111	228
Illegitimate	6	6	12
Total	123	117	240

Giving an illegitimate figure of 5% of Total Births.

LIVE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	- 19.9
-do- England & Wales	- 20.5

PREVIOUS YEARS.	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947.
District	16.2	11.9	18.4	17.2	20.5	19.9
England & Wales	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5

(b) <u>Stillbirths</u>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	0	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	2	0	2

STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population - 0.17
-do- England & Wales - 0.50

(c) Deaths Male 76: Female 80: Total 156.
(See Table of Causes of Death)

DEATH RATE per 1,000 population - 12.9
-do- England & Wales - 12.0

PREVIOUS YEARS	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
District	13.6	8.6	13.2	15.3	14.0	12.9
England & Wales	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0

(d) Infant Mortality

Deaths under 1 year: Male 4: Female 2: Total 6.
(all legitimate)

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 25
-do- England & Wales - 41

(e) Maternal Mortality

Women dying from Puerperal Sepsis or other Maternal
Causes - NIL

(f) <u>Causes of Death</u>	Male	Female	Total
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	-	1
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-

(Causes of Death - contd.)

	Male	Female	Total
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-
12. Acute Inf. Encephalitis	-	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	2	2	4
14. Cancer of stomach & Duodenum	2	4	6
15. Cancer of breast	-	2	2
16. Cancer all other sites	10	8	18
17. Diabetes	-	-	-
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions	5	13	18
19. Heart Diseases	28	29	57
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	5	3	8
21. Bronchitis	3	-	3
22. Pneumonia	5	1	6
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	-	2	2
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases	2	1	3
28. Nephritis	2	3	5
29. Puerperal & Post Abortion Sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other maternal Causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	2	1	3
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infant disorders	2	2	4
33. Suicide	1	1	2
34. Road Traffic Accident	1	-	1
35. Other Violent Causes	1	1	2
36. All other Causes	3	6	9
TOTALS	76	80	156

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifiable Infectious Diseases among
Civilians were recorded:-

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	2				1		1		2	1		8
Whooping Cough	3	5	3	2	4	1		2	4	11	1	7	43
Measles	2			3	27	15	26	19		2			94
Ophthalmia Neonatorum						1		1				1	5
Acute Poli-encephalitis								1					1
Dysentery								2					2
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis									1				1
Puerperal Pyrexia												1	1
Cerebro-spinal fever												1	1

No Schools were closed for Infectious Diseases.

Contacts

The Contacts of one case of supposed Smallpox who arrived in the district were kept under surveillance.

Infantile Paralysis

One case of Acute Poliomyelitis and one of Poliomyelitis occurred, there being no connection apparent between these and any other known reported case.

The contacts of a child who developed Infantile Paralysis after leaving the district were observed.

Food Poisoning

One fatal case of Food Poisoning occurred in a London man and the source of infection was successfully traced to one duck at a farm in the District. Suitable measures were taken to prevent recurrence.

It was pointed out at the time that Duck Eggs are liable to be infected thus, and they should never therefore be eaten lightly cooked.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Immunisation is undertaken by the County Council and Medical Officers visited the schools in outlying villages at specific dates for this purpose. Many took advantage of the regular clinics established in Warminster and Westbury.

The Warminster clinic is held on the 4th. Friday of every month at 2.30p.m. at Warminster Town Hall.

The Westbury Clinic is held at the Laverton Institute Westbury on the 4th. Thursday of every month at 2.30p.m.

At the 31st. December 1947, the immunisation position for the district was given:-

	Ages <u>1-4</u>	Ages <u>5-15</u>	<u>Total</u>
Estimated(Mid-year)			
Population	976	1572	2548
No. of children immunised			
at any time up to 31/12/47	469	1525	1994
Percentage immunised	48%	97%	78%
<u>Comparison with previous years</u>			
1946	45	82	67.5
1945	51	94	80

6. Tuberculosis

New Cases notified in 1947 (including transfers in)

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	4	5	0	2
Deaths	1	1	0	0

Cases on Register at 31. 12. 47.

17	9	8	9
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Shortage of Nursing & Domestic Staffs was still acute but the position was eased by the opening of Olstock Hospital, Salisbury.

7. HOSPITALS, CLINICS etc.

(a) There are no hospitals in the Rural District and it is served by the following General Hospitals:

Trowbridge & District Hospital
Westbury & District Hospital
Prideaux (Westbury) Hospital
Warminster Cottage Hospital
Devizes & District Hospital

also Salisbury Infirmary and Bath Hospitals

Special Hospitals

Isolation: Trowbridge & District Isolation Hospital

Maternity: Wards at Trowbridge Hospital, Salisbury
Infirmary; Berryfields (Bradford-on-Avon)
The Old Cottage Hospital (Melksham)

and Some beds in the General Hospitals.

Tuberculosis: Winsley Sanatorium: Hamwood Hospital
(Salisbury): Wards at Salisbury Isolation
Hospital: Tower House, Salisbury: Odstock
Hospital, Salisbury.

Surgical T.B. Bath Orthopaedic Hospital: Beckford Lodge,
Warminster (Dorset County Council):
Stratton St. Margaret Hospital.

(b) Ambulances

No ambulance is provided by the Rural District Council.
A grant is made towards the services of B.R.C.S. ambulance
at Warminster.

General cases were moved in the ambulance at Trowbridge,
Westbury and Warminster, including B.R.C.S. ambulances.

Infectious cases were dealt with by the Trowbridge
Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

(c) Clinics

The following Clinics served the district:

Infant Welfare: Trowbridge. The Hall. Every Tuesday
2 p.m.
Westbury, Congregational 1st. & 3rd.
Chapel Room. Mondays 2 p.m.
Warminster. Town Hall 1st. & 3rd.
Fridays 2 p.m.
(Now moved to Methodist Schoolroom,
George Street)
Devizes.

Maternity: At O.P.Ds of Hospitals
Specialist Clinics at Trowbridge - patients referred there by their own Doctor or by midwife.

Ear, Nose, & Throat: By invitation from County Council.

Orthopaedic: By invitation from County Council, at Trowbridge, Salisbury, Devizes & Bath.

Tuberculosis: Trowbridge, The Halve. Wednesday 10 a.m.
Salisbury Infirmary. Tuesday 10a.m.-2 p.m.
Devizes & District
Hospital Thursday 9 a.m.

Venereal Diseases:	Male	Female
Bath R.U.H.	Fridays 5p.m. Saturday 5p.m.	Tuesdays 5 p.m. Friday 2. 30. p.m.
Salisbury Infirmary	Tuesday 11.30a.m. Friday 6 p.m.	Wednesday 6p.m. Saturday 11.30a.m.
Trowbridge, the Halve	Thursday 5p.m.	Tuesday 5 p.m.

Cancer Treatment:

Centre at Bristol Royal Hospital.
Clinics at Bath (weekly) Salisbury (fortnightly) and Trowbridge (monthly).

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Warminster Town Hall 4th. Friday of month 2. 30 p.m.
Wootton Bassett Institute 4th. Thursday 2. 30 p.m.
Trowbridge The Halve 4th. Thursday 10. a.m.
Rural areas at Schools etc. on selected dates.

(d) Laboratory

Under the National Health Service Act 1946, the emergency arrangements are to be made permanent and full facilities for the Diagnosis, Prevention and control of Diseases are available to the Authority. The Salisbury Infirmary Pathological Laboratory is the one associated with the service for this district

(e) Nursing

The County Council is the Authority for the area.

In some parts local Nursing Associations employ District Midwives and/or District Nurses.

8. HOUSING

(a) New Housing Schemes

Council Houses were completed during the year in the parishes of Dilton Marsh, Bratton, North Bradley, Steeple Ashton, and in the following parishes, building operations were well forward: Chapmanslade, Heywood, Monkton Deverill and Stockton. At Codford site works were proceeding, and sites were available at Heytesbury, Southwick, Chittern and Hinton.

The Council House estates at Dilton Marsh (20) and Bratton (12) were completed and all houses let to suitable tenants

"Maycrete" & Airey Houses: The Council made application for an allocation of these "concrete" houses, but none were available for council purposes

(b) Camps and Requisitioned Properties

The possibility of using Camps released by the War Department for housing purposes was under consideration throughout the year and the following results were obtained:-

Ashton Gifford Camp - Not taken over.

Bishopstrow Camp - Huts occupied: certain works on huts approved

Bury Camp, Codford - Huts occupied: certain works carried out

Crabtree Camp - Not taken over

Keevil Camp - under investigation

Steeple Ashton Camps - Negotiations for taking over certain of the sites.

"Squatters" were reported on several of these sites. Requisitioned properties, the majority of which were substandard dwellings were carefully watched for insanitary conditions.

(c) Overcrowding

Fifteen cases of overcrowding were reported to the Council and where possible, appropriate action was taken.

(d) Housing Survey

In June, it was reported that a total of 658 houses had been surveyed and allocated to various Categories. The total number of inhabited houses in the district at 31/12/46 was 3,762, but many of these do not come within the scope of the Housing Acts.

The Housing Inspector resigned his post with effect from 14th. June, and, in view of the recommendation to economise in staff, the Council decided not to fill the vacancy caused by this officer's resignation. This meant that the Housing Survey practically ceased. It is hoped that the Survey will be continued at a later date. The appointment of a Housing Manager early in 1948 did much to relieve the Sanitary Staff of work on Council houses.

Generally speaking, the standard of housing in the district is poor; far too many houses now in occupation do not come up to normal standards and are only fit for demolition. Most of the houses relegated to Category 5 (unfit for human habitation) are occupied.

In this, the undertaking of repairs and reconstruction necessary to bring them up to standard is extremely difficult and not an economic proposition. It must also be borne in mind that the huts in the Camp sites which have been converted, have only a limited life.

(e) Future Programme

The Council adopted the following programme for new houses:-

Bulkington	2	Heytesbury	2
Critterne	2	Hinton	2
Corton	2	Keevil	2
Deverills	6	Southwick	4
East Coulston	2	Sutton Verby	4
Edington	4	West Ashton	2

9. WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Regional Scheme - Bratton Source

This supply, formerly an R.A.F. supply to Keevil Camp, was finally taken over by the Council during the year. Pumping tests were to be carried out in 1948. The question of erecting another reservoir on Picquet Hill was referred to the Ministry of Health.

(b) Regional Scheme - Codford Source

The sinking of a new well at Codford Station was approved and the boring was commenced in October. The early stages of this work gave promise of an excellent supply up to 34,000 gallons per hour being pumped. Men working on the site were examined and found free from communicable intestinal diseases.

(c) Samples

The following reports on Public Water Supplies were received:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Supply</u>	<u>Pollution</u>
22/3/47	Edington Well	None whatsoever
27/5/47	Sutton Veny	Negligible, non faecal
	Longbridge Deverill	Slight, non faecal
	Hoytesbury	None whatsoever
28/5/47	Bratton, Castle Hill	Slight, non faecal
	Bratton, Coombe Hill	do.
	East Coulston	Negligible, non faecal
+ 3/6/47	Keevil	Considerable, non faecal
	Steeple Ashton	None whatsoever.
	Upton Scudamore	do.
	Hinton	Slight, non faecal
10/6/47	Sherrington	Gross, small faecal
	Stockton Estate	Very small, non faecal
	Stockton(Yeatman Biggs)	None whatsoever
12/6/47	Boyton	Moderate, small faecal
16/6/47	Horningsham	None whatsoever
	Corsley	do.
	Chapmanslade	Slight, non faecal
17/6/47	Keevil pump	do.
1/7/47	Boyton Estate	Slight, small faecal
+ 16/7/47	West Ashton Well	Gross, non faecal
31/7/47	Boyton	Small, non faecal
+ 28/8/47	Ireland, North Bradley	Gross faecal
	1st. Well supplying 10 cottages	
+	Ireland North Bradley	Gross, small faecal
	2nd. Well for 10 cottages.	

+	1/9/47	Upton Scudamore	Moderate, non faecal
		Dilton Marsh	None whatsoever
	8/9/47	Bratton (Coombe Hill)	Considerable, non faecal
+		Bratton (Castle Hill)	Heavy, considerable faecal
+		Bulkington Well	Considerable faecal
		Steeple Ashton	Small, non faecal
		East Coulston	do.
+		Hinton	Gross, considerable faecal
+		Keevil Well	Moderate, Minimal faecal
+	17/9/47	Boyton	Considerable minimal faecal
	18/9/47	Stockton (Yeatman Biggs)	Gross, non faecal
		Stockton Estate	Slight, non faecal
		Sutton Veny	None whatsoever
	22/9/47	Chapmanslade	Small, non faecal
		Corsley	None whatsoever
	25/9/47	Heytesbury	Gross, minimal faecal
		Longbridge Deverill	Moderate, minimal faecal
+	29/9/47	Hinton	Gross faecal
+		Bulkington	do.
	9/10/47	Hornigsham	Slight, minimal faecal
	14/10/47	Stockton	do.
		do.	Negligible, non faecal
+	16/10/47	Bulkington	Gross faecal
	20/10/47	Bratton Pump Chamber	None whatsoever
	14/12/47	West Ashton Pump	Considerable non faecal

+ In these cases, appropriate action was taken e.g. Issue of "Boiling" notices, cleaning and chlorinating, repairs and replacements of pumping apparatus, closing down of supply for domestic use, etc.

Many villages in the district are served by unsatisfactory wells and are badly in need of a pure piped supply. In the following villages, piped supplies are available:-

Bapton	-	Private Supply
Bishopstrow	-	Warminster U.D.
Boyton	-	Estate Supplies
Bratton	-	R.D.C. two supplies
Chapmanslade	-	R.D.C.
Corsley	-	R.D.C. & Estate
Dilton Marsh	-	Westbury & Dilton Marsh Joint Water Committee
East Coulston	-	One R.D.C., one Private
Heytesbury	-	Estate
Heywood	-	R.D.C. & Private
Horningsham	-	Estate (two)
Keevil	-	Private
Longbridge		
Deverill	-	Estate
North Bradley	-	Trowbridge & Melksham Water Board
Southwick	-	-do-
Steeple Ashton	-	R.D.C. & Military
Stockton	-	Estate and Private
Sutton Veny	-	R.D.C. (Military)
Upton Scudamore	-	Trowbridge & Melksham Water Board

Ireland, North Bradley: The question of an extension of the Trowbridge & Melksham Water Board's mains to supply this district was reviewed. The wells serving this hamlet were found to be unfit for domestic use. Negotiations with the Board were to be continued.

Potters Hill, Crockerton: Negotiations for the extension of the Warminster U.D. supply to this part of the Rural District were pushed forward.

Chapmanslade Rising Main: Subject to certain details approval was obtained for the Council's Scheme to lay a new Rising main for the Council's supply at Chapmanslade.

10. SEWERAGE

The Council is responsible for its own works in the following parishes:-

Bratton - Council Houses	Hill Deverill - Council
Chapmanslade do.	Houses.
Chitterne do.	Hinton do.
Codford do.	Keevil do.
Corsley do. (2)	North Bradley do.
Dilton Marsh do.	Steeple Ashton do.
Heytesbury do.	Storridge (Westbury) do.
Heywood do.	Southwick do. (2)
	Upton Scudamore do.

The possibility of taking over the large Sewerage Works at Keevil Camp were considered and enquiries made. At Storridge - extensive repairs were carried out to these works. At Dilton Marsh the Sewer was extended & Sewage Disposal Works were enlarged. Sewer ditches in various parishes were kept cleaned out by the employment of direct labour.

11. REFUSE & SALVAGE

All villages in the District have refuse collections and salvage is incorporated. Collections are made every 1, 2 or 4 weeks according to requirements. Tips in use are at Penliegh and Boyton. The War Department had been using a Site at Longbridge Deverill and this was not in a bad state. After consultation with W.D. officers, it was decided to close this tip and arrangements were made for clearing and tidying at W.D. expense.

12. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS

Routine inspections, continued during the year, were interrupted in the interval between Mr. Piper leaving and Mr. Kemish joining the staff.

Farmers were advised in clean production methods. Souring of milk is mainly a bacteriological process, dependant on temperature etc. It is therefore essential that milk should be as free from organism as possible. Even though containers may appear clean to the naked eye, contamination by dust and minute particles in the air is detrimental: all handling and production of milk should be as surgically clean as is possible.

Purity in milk is essential for health, in addition to being an economic factor.

Of 457 Farmers registered, 342 were ordinary producers, 75 Accredited and 40 T.T.

13. RATS & MICE

The Rodent Officer, whose duties are shared by Warminster U.D. and Westbury U.D., continued to visit tips and premises in the district.

14. CAMPING SITES

Two sites were inspected and licensed. Notice was served on another unsuitable site.

15. SWIMMING BATHS

Shearwater Lake is the only Public Swimming Place in the District and is situated on the Longleat Estate.

16. SANITARY INSPECTIONS

The following is a Summary of the inspections done during 1947.

<u>Farm Inspection.</u>	<u>GRADES</u>			
	<u>Ordinary.</u>	<u>Accredited.</u>	<u>T.T.</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. on Register:	342	75	40	457
No. of Inspections:	110			
No. inspected:	99			
No of premises improved	55			
No. of Preliminary Notices served:	NIL			

No. of Milk shops inspected: 1 Inspections: 10
No. of new Registrations: 14

Rats & Mice Destruction Act.

SURVEY -		Bodies Estimate	
<u>Premises Inspected</u>	<u>Premises Treated</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Kill</u>
197	40	212	1060

Factories & Workshops Acts.

No. on Register:	32		
No. Inspected:	27		
No. Inspections:	41		
Notices served:	2	Complied with:	2
New Registrations:	1		
Registrations lapsed:	NIL		

Public Health Acts.

Complaints received:	98
Inspections made:	98
Nuisances abated:	41

Housing Act 1936.

No. of Houses inspected:	128
No. of House inspections:	256
No. of Notices served:	8
Notices complied with:	8
Work without formal action:	128
Improvements:	85

Meat & Food Inspections

No. of Butcher's ^{Shops} inspected:	4
No. of inspections:	24

Meat & Food Condemned.

<u>Description of Article</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>
56 Tins Canned Milk	Blown and rancid.
6lb. Corned Beef	Mouldy.
48 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Dried Prunes	Mouldy.
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Dried Apricots	Mouldy.
1 Can Chef Beans	Mouldy and Blown.
16 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. Duncan Beans	Blown.
6 lb. Canned Tomatoes	Blown.
15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs Canned Salmon	Blown & Decomposed.
7lb. 14ozs Tunis Dates	Fermentation.
27 lbs. Mutton	Fly Blown.
10 doz. Cakes	Mouldy.
4 doz. Tins Evaporated . Milk	Unfit and damaged
4 doz. Tins Milk	Solidification.

Camping

<u>No. of Sites</u> <u>Licensed.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>inspections</u>	<u>No of Sites</u> <u>discontinued</u>	<u>No of Notices</u> <u>Served</u>
2	4	2	1

Bakehouses.

No. of premises Inspected:	8
No. of Inspections:	12
Informal Notices Served:	1
Informal Notices Complied With:	1
Notices Served:	2
Notices Complied With:	2

Ice Cream.

No. of Registrations:	5
No of premises Inspected:	5
No. of Inspections:	8
Contraventions:	2
Notices Served:	2
Notices Complied With:	2

New Drainage Installations

No. of new Installations:	11
No. of Inspections:	18
No. passed as Satisfactory:	11

Requisitioned Properties.

Inspections of a routine nature were carried out during the year and most were found to be in a satisfactory condition. Only one case was taken to court.

Summonses Issued:	1
Prosecutions:	1

